

Filed for intro on 02/13/95  
Senate Bill \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

House No. HJR0073  
By Bragg, Sr.

A RESOLUTION to honor Pastor Richard W. Gordon.

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the duly elected members of this legislative body to honor exemplary religious leaders for their steady influence and guidance in furtherance of God's work; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Richard W. Gordon of the First Baptist Church in Murfreesboro is one such exemplary servant of God, whose unflagging commitment has redounded to the benefit of the congregation he has so devoutly served for 33 glorious years; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Gordon was born in Daviess County, Kentucky, and was educated in the public schools of Owensboro, graduating from Western High School; and

WHEREAS, after accepting the call to the ministry, he attended the American Baptist College of the Bible in Nashville, graduating with a B.A. (Bible) degree in 1960; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Gordon accepted his first assignment to perform God's work as pastor of the Bethlehem Baptist Church in Utica, Kentucky, and later pastored the First Baptist Church in Scottsville, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, he began his pastorate at First Baptist Church in Murfreesboro. His ministry there has proven to be a great asset to the members of First Baptist and the entire communities of Murfreesboro, Rutherford County and Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Gordon has rendered his services with faith and dedication so that First Baptist has become one of the finest religious institutions in Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Gordon's ministerial efforts have inspired him to additional public service, as the Vice-President, Treasurer, and Chairman of the Executive Committees of the Murfreesboro Chapter of the NAACP; Secretary-Treasurer, Vice-President and President of the Murfreesboro Ministerial Association; Vice-President of the United Ministerial Alliance; and as Second Vice-Moderator of the Stones River District Congress of Christian Education. He is presently serving as the Treasurer of the United Ministerial Alliance and, in addition, was a member of the Planning Committee for the 1989 National Baptist Congress held in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Gordon has also contributed his time and many talents as a member of the Rutherford County Guidance Center Board and the Rutherford County Heart Unit of the American Heart Association, and conducts evangelical services in many states throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, his many honors and accolades aside, Reverend Gordon is most appreciative of the love and support he shares with his devoted wife, the former Amanda Evelyn Thurston; their two children, and four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Gordon's name is synonymous with integrity, devotion, and equanimity; he is to be specially recognized for his alacritous service to others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we congratulate Reverend Richard W. Gordon upon his 33 years of outstanding service to the congregation of First Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, extending to him our heartfelt wishes for much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Reverend Gordon with this final resolving clause deleted from such copy.